Maintenance of Mahabodhi Temple at Bodh Gaya

611. SHRI VEN"BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Great Mahabodhi Temple at Bodh Gaya urgently needs chemical washing and maintenance;

(b) if so, whether Bodh Gaya Temple Management Committee have deposited the amount with the Archaeological Department for the same; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government for the maintenance of the great historical monuments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) the Mahabodhi Temple Bodh Gaya is not a centrally protected monument, as such, it does not come within the purview of the Archaeological Survey of India.

At present, the temple does not require chemical treatment. At the request of the Bodh Gaya Temple Management Committee (BGTMC) an estimate amounting to Rs. 34.83 lakhs has been sanctioned as a deposit work for structural repairs. The temple authorities have deposited Rs. 20 lakhs and the work has been taken up.

Development of Junagadh, Gujarat

612. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated by UNESCO for the development of tourism in India, during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the funds utilised by various States during the said period; and

(c) the funds utilised out of the total funds received by the State Government of Gujarat for the development of Junagadh?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) UNESCO is a technical support agency in the UN System and not a funding unit.

(c) No funds have been provided by UNESCO for the development of Junagadh in Gujarat. An international experts was fielded to Gujarat, funded by UNESCO, to assess damages caused to the cultural property in the aftermath of the earthquake.